

WCPO, OH, USA

## Transgender boy fighting for the right to transition before college

By: WCPO Staff, Kristen Swilley

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[\[Video \(no direct link\)\]](#)

CINCINNATI -- A 17-year-old Hamilton County boy who wants to begin college with the world recognizing him as just that -- a boy -- is fighting in court for the right to live away from his parents, who refuse to accept that their child is transgender.

On one side of the battle are the boy's grandparents, with whom he currently lives and who have supported his gender transition; on the other are his parents, who lawyers say insisted he receive Christian therapy rather than be allowed to pursue hormone replacement therapy (HRT) or sex reassignment.

"The parents in this case do not desire to parent their child," said Donald Clancy of the Department of Jobs and Family Services. "They merely have a desire to parent a child who, in reality, no longer exists."

Attorney Karen Brinkman, who represents the boy's parents, said they believe his expression is a phase -- "a place to park (the child's) anxiety" -- and withholding treatment is a protective measure to prevent long-term damage.

"The belief that hormone therapy or sex reassignment therapy would help patients who have gender dysphoria is based on hope, not science," she said.

In fact, multiple [recent studies](#) of long-term health outcomes for transgender men and women report that such patients experience "high degrees of well-being and good social integration" when allowed to receive the above-mentioned treatments.

In [one study](#), researchers wrote that, compared to patients who had not received HRT or sex reassignment surgery, "participants showed significantly fewer psychological problems and interpersonal difficulties as well as a strongly increased life satisfaction."

Doctors and therapists who examined the boy have testified that his mental and physical health have improved since he moved in with his grandparents, according to Paul Hunt of ProKids.

"The child has stated, 'I don't want to go back home,'" the grandparents' attorney, Jeffrey Cutcher, said. "'When I was home, dad chased me around the house. When I was home, I

lived in terror in that home."

The longer the custody battle lasts, Cutcher said Friday, the harder it will be for the boy to introduce himself the way he wants to be seen.

"What we want to in the coming months around May is plan for a high school graduation, throughout the summer and fall plan for an entrance into college," he said. "We don't want to be planning a funeral."

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/transgender-boy-fighting-for-the-right-to-transition-before-college>

Cincinnati.com, OH, USA

Prosecutor: Parents' refusal of transgender treatment made teen suicidal

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A judge will decide next month whether to grant full custody to the grandparents of a transgender boy so he can pursue hormone therapy, which his parents oppose.

Closing arguments in the case, which began in December in Hamilton County Juvenile Court, took place Friday.

The now-17-year-old wants to transition in gender, but prosecutors say his parents deny he is transgender and have refused services from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Instead, one of their attorneys said Friday, the parents prefer therapy to “get to the underlying causes” of the teen’s desire to transition.

A visiting judge, Sylvia Hendon, said she will issue a ruling before Feb. 16.

A Hamilton County assistant prosecutor who is representing Job and Family Services said the parents’ stance could lead the teen to suicide.

“This child teeters on the edge of suicidal ideation,” Assistant Prosecutor Don Clancy told Hendon.

**More:** [Documents: Transgender teen wants treatment. Parents want 'Christian-based' therapy](#)

JFS was granted temporary custody of the teen early last year and he was placed with his grandparents. Clancy said they “accept their grandson for who he is.”

According to Clancy, the teen’s parents spent the entire case “trying to show that their child is not transgender.”

“A reasonable parent,” he said, “would never tell their own child to kill themselves because they were going to hell, anyway.”

Clancy noted that an expert witness called by the parents testified that “a small cabal of lobbyists and politicians invented the term ‘gender dysphoria’...and the treatment for it.”

Two experts from Children’s Hospital refuted the parents’ expert, testifying that the teen suffers from gender dysphoria, Clancy said.

“This child needs as much support as he can get,” he said.

An attorney for the parents, Karen Brinkman, said the teen is emotionally unstable and is not equipped to make a decision about serious medical treatment.

“The science says a more neutral environment with continued therapy to address the underlying issues is the best practice,” Brinkman said.

She added that it appeared doctors with Children’s Hospital’s transgender clinic were “doing little more than experimenting on children to further their careers or bolster their reputations.”

To allow hormone replacement therapy “and subject this child to the social stigma of being transgender,” Brinkman said, “will only increase the risk of suicide in the future.”

She said the parents agree that the teen should continue living with the grandparents. They simply don’t believe hormone therapy is an appropriate treatment for their child. She also said the parents’ religious beliefs are not a factor, although court documents refer to an email from the teen’s mother, which said that they were going to seek a Christian therapist.

According to the complaint, in November 2016 the teen emailed a crisis hotline that one of his parents had told him to kill himself and refused to let him get therapy “unless it was Christian-based.”

The teen has reported that he was once forced to sit in a room and listen to Bible scriptures for more than six hours at a time, the documents say.

The teen, according to the court documents, at one point was seeing a therapist through Children’s Hospital. But that therapy was stopped early in 2016 by his parents, the complaint says.

The therapy, however, later resumed due to the teen’s anxiety and depression, even as his parents were “still opposed to the transition issue,” the documents say.

A case involving the teen also is pending in federal court, although most documents have been filed under seal.

The parents allege in the federal case that Children’s Hospital and county JFS “held” the teen at Children’s Hospital for approximately four weeks without their consent and without a court order.

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2018/01/26/prosecutor-parent-told-transgender-teen-he-going-hell/1071010001/>

WWLT, OH, USA

Judge will decide Cincinnati transgender teen's fate

Updated: 11:42 PM EST Jan 26, 2018

Amanda Kelley  
Reporter

[\[Video \(no direct link\)\]](#)

CINCINNATI — A transgender Cincinnati teenager wants hormone therapy and to remain living with his grandparents.

The teen's parents denied that he is transgender and refused to let his counseling at Cincinnati Children's Hospital continue.

Now, a Hamilton County judge will decide what's best for the teen.

According to a complaint filed in juvenile court, the now-17-year-old's parents prefer Christian therapy over hormone therapy.

The teen has been diagnosed with anxiety, depression and gender dysphoria.

"My client deserves a loving and supportive home. My client deserves some hope in his life," attorney Tom Mellott said.

Documents reveal that the teen claims he feared for his safety while living at home with his mother and father.

"A reasonable parent, however, your honor, would never tell their own child to kill themselves because they were going to hell anyway. A reasonable parent would never instill terror into the mind of their child," said Donald Clancy, an attorney for the state.

The grandparents were in the courtroom Friday, advocating to have the teen remain in their custody.

"They are the only family members that have provided acceptance and support that most probably kept this child from taking his own life. Excuse the melodrama, your honor, but these people are heroes," Clancy said.

Court records reveal the parents pulled their child from counseling at Children's Hospital to seek a Christian therapist. They also forced him to listen to Bible Scriptures for six hours or more at a time.

"The child has stated, 'I don't want to go back home. When I was home, dad chased me around the house. When I was home, I lived in terror,'" said Jeff Cutcher, an attorney for the grandparents.

"Pretty much everything the parents say or don't say is taken out of context, twisted, exaggerated, blown out of proportion and then improperly used against them," said Karen Brinkman, an attorney for the teen's parents.

Attorneys for the teen said the child cried and screamed in the fetal position when he saw his birth name on documents, and that the best option is to hand custody to his grandparents.

"Your honor, what we want to do in the coming months is, around May, plan for a high school graduation; throughout the summer and fall, plan for entrance into college. We don't want to be planning a funeral," Cutcher said.

A judge plans to issue a decision on the case no later than Feb. 16.

<http://www.wlwt.com/article/judge-will-decide-cincinnati-transgender-teens-fate/15898764>

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